

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 8, and 14. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently amended) A system for searching data in a distributed computing network of sellers' commercial databases, the system comprising:

a distributed computing network comprising a plurality of sellers' commercial databases, said seller's commercial databases commonly related to an industry,

at least one buyer's node adapted to translate a buyer's first query,

a commercial search agent adapted to receive the buyer's first query regarding a selected item, said item one of a product or service, said commercial search agent in communication with said plurality of sellers' commercial databases, and said commercial search agent further adapted to search said plurality of sellers' commercial databases for information related to said selected item; and

at least one intelligent negotiation agent in communication with said commercial agent, said intelligent negotiation agent ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive said information related to said selected item and ~~for engaging to engage~~ in a negotiation for procurement of said selected item.

2. (Original) The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1, wherein:

said commercial search agent comprises an intelligent agent.

3. (Original) The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of a plurality of analytical agents for mining data related to said selected item from said plurality of sellers' databases, said analytical agent also for generating a report on said data that most closely meets a goal,

said analytical agent in communication with said commercial search agent for transmission thereto of said report.

4. (Original) The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of said plurality of sellers' databases includes at least one promotion module.

5. (Original) The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of said plurality of sellers' databases includes at least one risk management option module.

6. (Original) The system for searching data of claim 1, wherein:

said distributed computing network comprises a cooperative communications network having a plurality of sellers' commercial databases, said cooperative communications network related to said selected item.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) A method for searching data in a distributed computing network of sellers' commercial databases, the method comprising:

receiving a buyer's first query regarding a selected item, said item one of a product or service,

performing an automated search on a distributed computing network for information related to said selected item, said distributed computing network comprising a plurality of sellers' commercial databases, said plurality of sellers' commercial databases commonly related to an industry; and

receiving from at least one of said plurality of sellers' commercial databases a risk management option comprising at least one contract contingency authorizing a seller to pay a buyer a penalty ~~if said seller elects~~ in response to an election by the seller to sell said selected item to another buyer.

9. (Original) The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8, wherein:

said performing an automated search is accomplished by invoking an intelligent commercial search agent.

10. (Original) The method ,for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8, further comprising:

mining data from said plurality of sellers' commercial databases, receiving a goal, analyzing said data for generating a report thereon that most closely satisfies said goal, transmitting said report to said commercial search agent.

11. (Previously presented) The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 10, wherein:

said mining data is performed by an intelligent analytical agent.

12. (Original) The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving from at least one of said plurality of sellers' commercial databases a promotion.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) A system for procurement that communicates over a distributed network, the system comprising:

one or more memories for storing a list of individual product items and individual service items,

an intelligent commercial search agent in communication with said one or more memories, and

one or more seller showcase databases in communication with said commercial search agent,

wherein, when one or more of said seller showcase databases receives from said commercial search agent a request to receive bids to sell a selected item specified from said list, said one or more seller showcase databases submits that bid to said commercial search agent; and

an intelligent analytical agent ~~for mining~~ configured to mine data related to a selected item from said list, said mining from at least one of a plurality of market databases, said analytical agent ~~for generating~~ configured to generate a subset of data that most closely conforms to a set of preprogrammed item parameters, and said analytical agent in communication with said commercial search agent ~~for providing~~ and configured to provide thereto said subset of data.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously presented) A method for procurement using computers that communicate over a distributed network, the method comprising:

receiving from one of a plurality of buyer's intelligent agents registered with a cooperative communications network a request to receive bids to sell a selected item specified from a list of individual product items and individual service items, said request for bids including a set of item parameters, said set including quality, and

receiving from at least one of a plurality of seller's intelligent agents registered with a cooperative communications network an automated bid to sell said selected item, said bid responsive to said request.

17. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 16, further comprising:

said request for bids including a set of item parameters, said set including price.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 16 further comprising:

said request for bids including a set of item parameters, said set including item features.

20. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 16, wherein:

said buyer's intelligent agent comprises an intelligent commercial search agent for searching said plurality of seller's intelligent agents for bids conforming to a set of preprogrammed item parameters.

21. (Original) The method, for procurement of claim 20, wherein: said item parameters include transaction parameters.

22. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 16, further comprising:

a seller's analytical agent for receiving market data related to said selected item from at least one of a plurality of seller databases, said seller's analytical agent analyzing said market data for demand shaping opportunities based on a set of buyer identifying data, and sending said market data to said seller's intelligent agent.

23. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 22, further comprising:

using said market data to create a seller's showcase database related to said selected item, said showcase database comprising at least one of a group of sets of information comprising product items and service items.

24. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 23:

wherein: said sets of information are shaped according to said buyer identifying data to maximize interest of said buyer.

25. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 23, wherein:

said at least one of a group of sets of information comprises promotions.

26. (Original) The method for procurement of claim 23, wherein:

said at least one at least one of a group of sets of information includes a contract contingency authorizing a seller to pay a buyer a penalty if said seller elects to sell said selected item to another buyer.

27. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 14, wherein:

said buyer's intelligent agent comprises an intelligent commercial search agent for ranking said bids according to at least one filter factor.

28. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises item price.

29. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises item location.

30. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises item niche.

31. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises item availability.

32. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises includability in bundle purchase.

33. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises accountability of seller.

34. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises past experience with seller.

35. (Original)The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises at least one promotion.

36. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

said at least one filter factor comprises at least one contract contingency authorizing a seller to pay a buyer a penalty if said seller elects to sell said selected item to another buyer.

37. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 14, wherein:

said bids submitted by at least one of said seller showcase databases includes a contract contingency authorizing a seller to pay a buyer a penalty if said seller elects to sell said selected item to another buyer.

38. (Original) The system for procurement of claim 37, wherein: said penalty diminishes over time.

39. – 42. (Canceled).